

## OBSERVANCE OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

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JANUARY 29, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. LUCE, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. J. Res. 318]

The Battle of Bunker Hill was the second of the noteworthy conflicts that led to the independence of our country. Fought on the 17th of June, 1775, it shares in fame with the encounters at Lexington and Concord on the preceding 19th of April. These two days have ever since been commemorated in Massachusetts. This year brings their one hundred and fiftieth anniversary and preparations are under way to mark their observance with exceptional ceremonies and festivities. The Congress has seen fit to assure the interest of the whole Nation in the celebration at Lexington and Concord by suitable provision, and it seems proper that it should give like proof of its interest in the celebration at Charlestown. Such occasions furnish opportunity to rekindle the fires of patriotism, to stir in youthful breasts resolve to emulate their forefathers in sacrifice for country, to renew among their elders a just pride in the history of our land, to keep alive the memory of the heroes who made possible our prosperity and our safety, our freedom and our might. The Union may well show on such occasions that it is grateful and does not forget.

It is recommended, however, that the resolution be amended by striking out sections 5 and 6. In relation thereto, the Secretary of the Treasury has written the following letter, which is here inserted not only for its bearing on this particular resolution but also for reference in case of subsequent resolutions of like character:

I have your letter of January 20 relative to the practice which has recently developed of incorporating in resolutions contemplating a share by the Government in celebrations of one sort or another a provision for the issuance of special coins.

I very deeply appreciate your courtesy in giving me an opportunity to express to you the attitude of the Department toward this practice. Objections are made to the issue of special coins for the following reasons.

In my judgment the coinage should not be commercialized to finance any project or commemorate any other events than those of great national importance to all the people. The policy of issuing special coins opens the way to counterfeiting and makes the protection of the integrity of our coinage much more difficult. The issue of special coins is not in the interest of the general public and usually satisfies a very limited demand. The practice introduces confusion into our system of coinage, is an unnecessary expense, and, as actual results have shown special coins are not liked by the public, they are seldom absorbed for circulation. There are known instances of special coins being refused in trade for the reason that the public is not familiar with them. In this connection I wish to submit for your consideration the following statement relative to special coins recently issued:

Special coins	Number authorized	Number struck	Number returned
Maine half dollar.....	100,000	50,000	-----
Pilgrim half dollar.....	300,000	300,000	80,000
Missouri half dollar.....	250,000	50,000	29,600
Alabama half dollar.....	100,000	70,000	14,000
Grant half dollar.....	250,000	100,000	28,400
Monroe Doctrine half dollar.....	300,000	274,000	<sup>2</sup> 217,000
Huguenot-Walloon half dollar.....	300,000	142,000	<sup>3</sup> 55,000

<sup>1</sup> Destroyed at the mint; not returned.

<sup>2</sup> On hand at close of exposition; later offered at face value.

<sup>3</sup> 24,000 additional coins not called for.

Respectfully,

A. W. MELLON,  
Secretary of the Treasury.